

The Madness of Self-Sabotage

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Today has been yet another adventure in watching self-destruction arise on the Internet. Frankly I am not done with the current semester at Lakeland Community College so I have to wait on a few matters before acting. In reading *The Register*, I had the distinct displeasure of seeing that a new front was being opened up in the war to preserve Net Neutrality.¹

Many parties and non-parties to the proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission are calling for the proceedings to be halted. There has been a call for massive trolling through an effort to "break the Internet" between now and the Commission voting.² Currently sites like Reddit come with a crippling pop-up when you first visit them whether you are located in the United States or are abroad.

In response to a call from the Ubuntu Podcast folks for 2018 predictions, I *somewhat* tongue-in-cheek put this forward in the fabled Telegram channel:

¹Kieren McCarthy, "What Network Neutrality Madness Has Happened Today? Take a Big Breath," *The Register*, November 12, 2017, https://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/12/12/net_neutrality_latest/.

²Since that link will likely die, I will state that it was to part of the "Battle For The Internet" homepage. To quote a bit of the madness: "Net neutrality affects everyone who uses the Internet. This protest is for all of us. Here's a big list of creative ways to 'Break the Internet' for the 48 hours before the FCC vote. Go wild and Tweet every 10 minutes until the FCC vote, change your job on LinkedIn to 'Defending Net Neutrality' or say you're 'Married to the Open Internet' on Facebook. Do whatever you can to get *everyone's* attention and drive phone calls to Congress. If you run a website or blog, go here."



[In reply to Martin Wimpres] The Internet will be far less centered in the USA starting in 2018. Mrs. May will have opened the UK's first Silicon Roundabout outside Belfast with Arlene Foster as the surprise minister in charge. That's my wild prediction.



As the day has gone by, I am no longer sure that that is totally a joke. Oh, the part about putting the leader of the DUP in charge of a UK-wide ministerial function would still be a bad joke. The rest of it I think is actually something more than likely coming in the near-term.

Why do successful web-related business *need* to be started in the United States of America these days? Why not launch them from parts of the Commonwealth of Nations such as from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, or New Zealand? VKontakte provides a very different social media world for those who speak Russian, for example.

As quarrelsome as US culture and society has become, it is time to perhaps import other social media structures. Not all good ideas are coming out of California. Maybe an inventor in New Zealand might come up with something to rival Facebook? Australia could produce a virtual bush telegraph for the Internet?

I don't know where our future is headed. The Internet indeed started in the United States of America. Its growth does not have to be confined here, though. When its growth isn't confined here, issues like the net neutrality rules repeal before the USA's Federal Communications Commission become not nearly so cataclysmic.